

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 2, 1864, with transcript

Home, March 2nd, 1864. (No envelope) My very dear Aleck,

I cannot tell you how much I feel of thankfulness for the affectionate sentiments you have expressed on the occasion of my birthday. I prize your Sonnet chiefly for its gratifying assurance of your love and esteem which are very dear to me; but I must add that independently of this, it is very beautiful and very clever as a poetical composition. I trust that our mutual affection may increase with our lives. My confidence in you has been as long as your life, and as your character develops, I can see fresh ground of thankfulness for so loving and so good a son. On this occasion I have the pleasure of congratulating you on the return of another birthday. Most warmly do I wish for you every blessing and a long and useful life, and most willingly it shall be my endeavor to contribute in every way within my power to your happiness and prosperity. I sent you some papers yesterday, from which you would see that our meeting on the 29th, was a good one. The surplus receipts amounted to upwards of five Pounds. I hope you have written to my father. He speaks of you most kindly in a letter which I received yesterday. I expect a visit from Uncle David on the 24th. He will stay out from Thursday till Monday. I must leave any further news for Mamma to relate. But perhaps her letter may be a short one as she is anxious to get on with some needful work for her dear absent one.

2

Mamma has worked a beautiful smoking cap for me, and I know nothing of its being in progress. Perhaps I should not have told you that a pair of heather tweed trousers for you will be the next production of her industry.

All join with me in best love to you, and in every good wish. Believe me,

## Library of Congress

Your ever affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.